

*Acts: The Spirit, the Church and the Spread of God's Word*  
**A Radically Inclusive Message**

Acts 10

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / August 25, 2019*

**I. You need to remember that obedience to God always accompanies true faith!**

A. Love for Christ is inseparably linked with obedience to His Word.

**Matthew 7:21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”

**John 14:15** “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

**James 2:14** “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?”

**1 John 2:3** “And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.”

B. Even though the Centurion was trained, experienced, and battle-worn, his initial response to the message of God was fear...and immediate obedience.

**Acts 10:4,7-8** “And he stared at him in terror and said, ‘What is it, Lord?’...When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.”

C. Even though Peter walked with Christ and loved Him dearly, his initial response to the message of God was argument...and eventually, obedience.

**Acts 10:13-14** “And there came a voice to him: ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ But Peter said, ‘By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.’”

Even the most seasoned Christians will oftentimes find their motives, thoughts, lifestyles and actions need to change for God's glory.

**II. You need to lay aside your comfort and prejudices in order to be used by God.**

**Acts 10:15-16,19-20** “And the voice came to him again a second time, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven...And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and **accompany them without hesitation**, for I have sent them.’”

In Acts 20, the Greek term translated “without hesitation” literally means “without misgivings” or “doubting nothing.”

**Galatians 3:28-29** “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

Nothing defeats racism, sexism, chauvinism, xenophobia, and the many dividing lines and barriers between people like the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

### **III. You can rest knowing God the Holy Spirit does the “heavy lifting” when a heart needs to be changed.**

**Acts 10:44** “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.”

#### **Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:**

- 1) Recall a time God’s Word called you to do something that went against your “grain.” Did you immediately obey like the Centurion, or eventually obey like Peter?
- 2) Where do you find yourself having doubts or misgivings when it comes to obeying God in an area(s) of your life?
- 3) What person or people group do you tend to look down on? What changes can you make so God might work *through* you instead of around you?
- 4) Pastor Peter said “God does the ‘heavy lifting’ when it comes to changing hearts & lives.” With that in mind, is there someone with whom you can seek to share Christ with a little more confidence? Why or why not?